

VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
Minutes, November 6, 2003 -- *Approved Dec. 18, 2003*

Present: Jenny Fallon, Joe Greene, Victoria Haase, Matt Hausmann, Jennifer Page, Barry Winston (arrived late)

Absent: Tim Higgins (excused), Bill Hofmann, Sara Oaklander, Meg O'Brien, Paul Solomon

1. Administrivia

1.1 The meeting which was held in the Flett Room was called to order at 7:05 pm and adjourned at 8:50 pm.

1.2 Minutes from the October 16th meeting could not be approved as no quorum was present.

2. Reports and Updates

2.1 Newcomers Network--Joe Greene reporting

Joe reported that the committee was planning another event (like the one held in August), for February or early March 2004. A weekend date is being considered ~to accommodate the elderly and families with small children. The committee will check with the organizations that previously participated. Jenny Fallon will provide a contact person from the School Department which had expressed a desire to be involved.

2.2 BEDPG--Jennifer Page reporting for Sara Oaklander

The breakfast meeting with Belmont Business Owners is scheduled for November 13 at 7:30 a.m. at the Chenery School. Jennifer also reported that the deadline to fill out the BEDPG survey was October 31, 2003. Those data are still being assembled.

2.3 PIC-PG--Jennifer Page reporting for Meg O'Brien

Jennifer reported that Meg wishes to thank members of the V21 Committee who attended the October 16th Forum, held at the Town Hall. The next step that the PIC group will take is to meet with Town Department Heads to share the suggested recommendations. Two specific areas to be discussed are the Town Web Site and Telephone Services, (the need for a general information number).

2.4 Fire Station Project--Jennifer Page reporting

Jennifer reported that the planning group has not heard whether the request for a waiver for affordable housing would be approved. At Town Meeting meeting (Nov. 17), members will vote on dedicating three town-owned properties for affordable housing. It was thought that all other town owned land was not suitable to build on. The lot on Brighton Street, (valued at 400-500 thousand dollars) and two lots off of B Street, (each valued at 220 thousand dollars) could supply 5 units total. Concerns to the plan were from neighbors in the area and those who thought that the lots should be sold to generate revenue for the town.

V21 discussion--The Committee urged that Town Meeting Members be appraised of the consequences of Belmont being out of compliance with the State guidelines. The State allocates discretionary money for projects based on a point system; one criterion is that the Town being considered for funding must be in compliance.

2.5 Environmental Project--Jenny Fallon reporting

2.5.1 Meeting with Michael Baram: Jenny reported that she and Jennifer recently met with Michael Baram, a member of the Belmont Citizens Forum. An environmental lawyer, Michael now chairs the Citizens Forum Environmental Committee. He outlined 3 specific interests expressed by members of his committee: Landscaping Businesses-both

noise and chemicals; Household waste-"pay as you throw" and; The Cambridge Quadrangle-impact on Belmont. The Belmont Citizens Forum is in the process of establishing a more "regular" group of volunteers and will work on one issue at a time. They will begin by contacting large landowners (like the Belmont Hill School and The Belmont Country Club), to find out what their landscaping practices are and to discuss such concerns.

V21 discussion = We agreed to keep in touch with The Belmont Citizens Forum as we may want to collaborate in the future or share information.

2.5.2 Meeting with Liz Sorrell: Jenny also reported on a recent meeting with Liz Sorrell who is the Director of Science in Belmont and is a summer resident of Cape Cod. Ms Sorrell works with 15 communities on the Cape to collect data and publish the results in the newspaper as an ongoing series. These articles highlight "sustainability indicators" while organizing the information, share how people can take part and, outline what action could be taken by lawmakers. The newspaper articles may provide a good model for our environmental group by providing a broad distribution of good information and public education.

2.5.3 V21 discussion/suggestions =

- Host a forum in 2004, inviting three or four other towns in the area to tell us how they got started and the focus of their work. Towns suggested include Newton-Green Decade Coalition, Somerville-Climate Action, Watertown-Citizens for Environmental Safety, and Sustainable Arlington. It was suggested that a contact in Lexington be pursued as we have collaborated with them in the past.
- Consider putting a summary of the information already collected on the web. The report is not easy to summarize, but an outline may be made available with links to full reports.
- Smaller groups could focus on specific areas in the report (energy, air, water, land, and waste), for further work and recommendations.
- Jennifer Page announced that she will attend the Grassroots Climate Action Conference on November 16 at Tufts University and invited others to join her.

2.6 Newcomer's Booklet--Barry Winston reporting

Barry reported that Minute Man Tech High School will print and fold the addendum page for 3 cents apiece. They will also check into how a future edition can be folded and stapled by students in small batches to save the cost of an outside binder. Of the initial printing of 6000 copies, about 1800 copies are on hand including about 500 copies that Jennifer and Joe have collected from 5 Realtors; they have yet to make contact with three other realtors. Feedback from the companies was positive and booklets have been distributed at open houses and as part of a welcome packet to newcomers. It was suggested that the Realtors' telephone numbers be included in a second printing if they continue to subsidize the costs. Members present reviewed the addendum and gave corrections to Victoria who will update the information.

V21 discussion = As earlier agreed, Barry will have 1800 copies of the insert printed.

Respectfully Submitted,~~~
Victoria Haase,~~~~~
Secretary Pro Tem